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FLOOR DEBATE

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LR 209

\$2 million this year. You know why? Because we used to have a contract with one provider of services that charged us about 11 percent of handling fees; we now have a new contract with a new vendor who's going to charge us about 3 percent. And the savings contractually will be about \$2 million. In other words, we will have \$2 million that used to be administrative fees, that didn't go to education or the environment, which will be available to the lottery, and that will essentially be the State Fair money. In other words, we're not taking money away from the environment. Now, arguably, it would have gone to the environment or it would have gone to education. That's true. But in a respect, it's found money. In other words, this 10 percent comes from a place of efficiency, rather than than being taken away on an absolute dollar basis from either education or the environment. I think the question remains, is this...are we going to act on behalf of the State Fair, or let it linger? And voting yes or no on the bill will tell us that. Number two, are we going to allow the public a chance to vote to give their will, is also endemic in this. And I also want to say that I want to reaffirm the goals that the lottery was originally set up for, which is the environment and education. Those are precious goals. I want to protect them. And in fact, at this moment in time, you can make this inclusion with the support of the public and make sure that the environment and the education continue to get the absolute dollars that they now get, because this is a wrinkle in time in which we are going to get over \$2 million of greater contractual efficiency, which we could put towards the State Fair, a good end. I ask for the adoption of the amendment, move on to the Louden amendment, then let's see what the fate of the bill is. Thank you.

SENATOR ENGEL: Thank you, Senator Landis. The question is the adoption of the Landis amendment to the amendment to LR 209CA. All those in favor vote aye, those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 3 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of Senator Landis' amendment.

SENATOR ENGEL: The Landis amendment is adopted.